

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)
10/522,160	RANTRUA
Examiner	Art Unit
Daniel J. Mills	3679

DJM

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment dated 8/21/2006 and interview of 11/13/2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 19-36.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 20061113.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because proper cross-hatching at cross sections indicated at 8 must be illustrated. The drawings filed on 8/21/2006 are acceptable subject to correction of the following informalities: proper cross hatching at cross sections indicated at 8 must be illustrated. In order to avoid abandonment of this application, correction is required in reply to the Office action. The correction will not be held in abeyance.

Amendment

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in telephone interviews with Mr. Liam McDowell on 11/9/2006.

The application has amended as follows:

Claim 19 lines 21-23 has been amended to replace:

"two pairs of half rings, one posterior pair of half rings and one anterior pair of half rings linked by four connecting lugs,"

with:

--two pairs of half rings, comprising, one posterior pair of half rings and one anterior pair of half rings, said two pairs of half rings linked by four connecting lugs,--

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art, particularly Hoback shows various types of tube assembling devices. The prior art does not teach or suggest the combination of features claimed. For example, the prior art does not suggest plural flexible hubs, and plural hub carriers each comprising two pairs of half rings, comprising, one posterior pair of half rings and one anterior pair of half rings, said two pairs of half rings linked by four connecting lugs, said connecting lugs are offset by 90 degrees about an anterior-posterior axis; at least one pair of tongues extending from one of the pairs of half rings and pointing in a direction of the other of the pair of half rings, so that when a tube is inserted into the hub-carrier either said pair of tongues remain outside the tube and positioning of said hub-carrier is made all along the tube, which is slightly compressed between the pair of tongues, or one tongue of said pair of tongues is inserted inside the tube and positioning of the hub-carrier occurs at an end of the tube.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Mills whose telephone number is 571-272-8115. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DJM

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11/13/2006



GREGORY J. BINDA
PRIMARY EXAMINER